benefit. Our participation in ITER will allow us to leap frog in terms of our national technological capability in fusion energy.

Thorium as fuel for atomic energy

2452. MISS MABEL REBELLO: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the places where Thorium is found in the country;

(b) the quantum of Thorium found in the country;

(c) the details thereof, State-wise; and

(d) how far technology is being developed to use Thorium for producing fuel for atomic energy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) to (c) The Atomic Minerals Directorate for Exploration and Research (AMD), a constituent unit of this Department has identified about 10.21 million tonnes of Thorium Mineral Monazite, as per details given below:—

State	*Resources (In million Tonnes)
Andhra Pradesh	3.73
Jharkhand and West Bengal	1.45
Kerala	1.37
Tamil Nadu	1.84
Orissa	1.82
TOTAL:	10.21*

* inclusive of indicated, inferred and speculative reserves

The monazite mineral is associated with beach sand heavy mineral placers as well as in the river sand placer and is associated with heavy minerals *viz.* Zircon, Ilmenite, Rutile, Monazite, Garnet etc. Monazite contains about 9% of ThO_2 .

(d) The third stage of the ongoing three stage Indian Nuclear Power Programme envisages development of Nuclear Reactors based on Uranium-233 (U-233) obtained by irradiating Thorium. The Government has taken a number of steps to develop appropriate technology for the utilization of Thorium. A few of the major steps are:

(1) Setting up the Research Reactor KAMINI at Kalpakkam, Tamil Nadu using U-233 Fuel obtained from irradiated Thorium. The Reactor has been operating since 1997. The fuel for Reactor is bred, reprocessed and fabricated indigenously.

(2) Irradiation of Thorium fuel bundle in Research Reactor at Trombay and in Pressurized Heavy Water Reactors (PHWRS).

(3) Design and development of Advanced Heavy Water Reactor (AHWR) using Thorium based fuel. Pre-licensing safety review of the AHWR has been completed by the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB).

(4) India has developed technologies to reprocess irradiated Thorium fuel, and in fabricating Uranium-233 based fuel.

Mining in Gopalpur and Manoharpur coalfields

†2453. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 75 million tonnes of coal mining is not being done in Gopalpur and Manoharpur coalfields;

(b) if so, the facts in this regard;

(c) whether a reserve of 200 million tonnes of coal has been located in this area;

(d) if so, the facts thereof; and

(e) when and to whom the responsibility of coal mining in the above coalfields was entrusted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) to (d) No, Sir. The estimated coal reserves in the Gopalpur-Manoharpur Tract of Ib Valley Coalfield under jurisdiction of Mahanadi Coalfields Limited (MCL) are around 5000 million tonnes and detailed exploration is continuing in this area. However, based on the detailed exploration conducted earlier in the area, Basundhra (West) Opencast Project (2.40 Mty) and Kulda Opencast Project (10.0 Mty) have been taken up by MCL during the Tenth Plan and these projects are under implementation.

(e) The responsibility of coal mining in Ib-Valley coalfields has been entrusted to MCL and MCL has planned to take up Garjanbahal (OCP) (10.0 Mty), Siramal OCP (8.0 M!y), Siarmal West Extension OCP (6.0 Mty) during the Eleventh Plan period after statutory clearances. Apart from MCL, 4 captive coal blocks namely Bijahan, Jamkhani, Manoharpur and Dip side of Manoharpur have been allotted for captive mining by Ministry of Coal till date. The expected total coal production from this area in the next 10-15 years time is around 50 million tonnes per year.

Transfer of land to CIL

2454. SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE:
SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 1644 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 10th August, 2006 and state:

(a) whether after payment of 2.50 lakhs to different beneficiaries, the title deed of the land bas been transferred in the name of Coal India Limited; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.